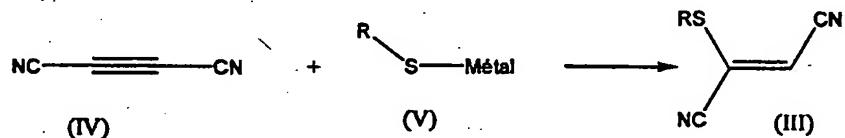


CLAIMS

1. A process for the preparation of compound (III) which comprises the reaction between a compound of general formula (V) and dicyano acetylene (IV),
 5 said reaction carried out in the presence of water



wherein R is selected from CF_3 , or C_1 to C_6 alkyl
 M is an alkaline or alkaline-earth metal or silver

10 2. A process as claimed in claim 1 wherein R is CF_3 and M is silver

3. A process as claimed in claim 1 or claim 2 carried out in the presence of an organic solvent which is miscible with water.

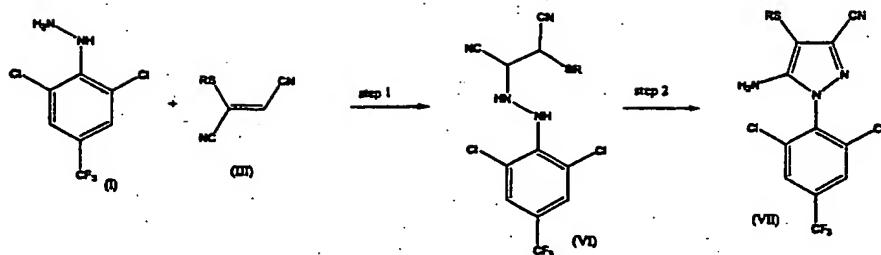
15 4. A process as claimed in claim 3 in which the solvent is acetone or tetrahydrofuran.

5. A process as claimed in any one of the preceding claims carried out at a temperature of from -100 to +50°C

20 6. A process as claimed in any one of the preceding claims carried wherein the molar ratio of dicyano acetylene to compound of formula (V) is from 5:1 to 1:5.

7. Novel compound according to general formula (III) as defined in claim 1 wherein R is CF_3

25 8. A process for the preparation of compound (VII) which comprises a first step of reaction of an aryl hydrazine of compound (I) with a compound of general formula (III) to produce an intermediate compound of general formula (VI), and a second step which comprises the oxidation of the compound (VI), according to the reaction scheme below



where R is a selected from CF₃ or C₁ to C₆ alkyl.

9. A process as claimed in claim 8 wherein the compound of formula (VI) is 1-trifluoromethyl thio 2 - (2,6 – dichloro – 4 - trifluoromethyl phenylhydrazino) succinonitrile.

10. A process as claimed in claim 8 or claim 9 carried out in the presence of a polar solvent selected from tetrahydrofuran, N-methylpyrrolidone, N,N-dimethylformamide and dimethylsulphoxide

11. A process as claimed in any one of claim in 8 to 10 carried out in the presence of a catalyst selected from N-benzyltrimethylammonium hydroxide, or alanine.

12. A process as claimed in any one of claim in 8 to 11 carried out at a temperature of from 0 to about 150°C

13. A process as claimed in any one of claim in 8 to 12 wherein the molar ratio of compound of formula (III) to compound of formula (I) is from 1:10 to 10:1.

14. A process as claimed in any one of claims 8 to 13 wherein the second step is carried out in the presence of a quinone, a peroxide, a hypohalite or an alkali metal hydroxide

15. A process as claimed in any one of claims 8 to 14 wherein the second step is carried out in the presence of air and optionally a metal salt or oxide

16. A process as claimed in any one of claims 8 to 15 wherein the second step is carried out in the presence of an aromatic halogenated or non-halogenated hydrocarbon solvent.

17. A process as claimed in any one of the claims 8 to 16 wherein the second step is carried out at a temperature of from 20 to 150°C

18. Novel compound according to general formula (VI) as defined in claim
1 wherein R is CF₃